

REMARKS

Claims 1-61 were previously pending in this application. Claims 1-51, 53, and 57-61 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claim 52 has been amended. New claims 62 and 63 have been added. Support for the claim amendments and new claims may be found in the specification (for example, page 6, lines 3-13; page 12, lines 22-26; page 16, lines 9-21; page 17, lines 5-9; page 18, lines 14-26; and the Figures). No new matter has been added. Claims 52, 54-56, 62, and 63 are now pending for examination with claims 52, 62, and 63 being independent claims.

Rejections of Claims 52-56 Under 35 U.S.C. §102(a)

Claims 52-56 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,647,939 ("Gee").

Gee fails to teach or suggest an article comprising a polymeric component having a surface bonded to a surface of a second component in the absence of auxiliary adhesive thereby defining a liquid-impermeable seal therebetween, wherein the liquid-impermeable seal comprises siloxane bonds and wherein the polymeric component comprises a plurality of protrusions bonded to the surface of the second component and a plurality of intervening indentations not bonded to the surface of the second component, as recited in claim 52. Because each limitation is not taught or suggested by Gee, claim 52 is patentable over Gee for at least this reason. Claims 54-56 depend from claim 52 and, thus, are also patentable over Gee. Claim 53 has been canceled.

Accordingly, withdrawal of claim rejections on this ground is respectfully requested.

Rejections of Claims 52-56 Under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

Claims 52-56 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,932,799 ("Moles").

Moles fails to teach or suggest an article comprising a polymeric component having a surface bonded to a surface of a second component in the absence of auxiliary adhesive thereby defining a liquid-impermeable seal therebetween, wherein the liquid-impermeable seal comprises siloxane bonds and wherein the polymeric component comprises a plurality of protrusions bonded to the surface of the second component and a plurality of intervening indentations not bonded to the

surface of the second component, as recited in claim 52. Because each limitation is not taught or suggested by Moles, claim 52 is patentable over Moles for at least this reason. Claims 54-56 depend from claim 52 and, thus, are also patentable over Moles. Claim 53 has been canceled.

Accordingly, withdrawal of claim rejections on this ground is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

As such, the claims are now believed to be in condition for allowance and a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. If the Examiner believes that minor clarifying amendments to the claim would be helpful, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

If this response is not considered timely filed and if a request for an extension of time is otherwise absent, Applicant hereby requests any necessary extension of time. If there is a fee occasioned by this response, including an extension fee, that is not covered by an enclosed check, please charge any deficiency to Deposit Account No. 23/2825.

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Respectfully submitted,

By 

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